

1985

University of Central Florida 1985 Self Study Southern Association of Colleges and Schools: Department of Political Science Self Study Report

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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

1985
Self Study

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SELF STUDY REPORT

SELF STUDY REPORT
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

1. Philosophy

1.1 Role in the University and the Community

The Department of Political Science has taken as its major role the education of undergraduate students in the three major areas of the discipline: American politics and policy; comparative politics and international politics; and political theory/philosophy. In addition, the Department supports the largest pre-law advisory and core course program in the University. The Department also offers a Master's of Political Science degree for both those directly interested in the area and for public school teachers needing area support. The Department undertakes to respond to outside lectures in both mass media and local community groups. The Department provides support and a faculty member for a locally-based talk show, "Pro and Con," which airs on an ABC affiliate and deals with public issues. In addition, the Department has brought in outside grant money to sponsor guest lecturers to which the wider community has been invited.

1.2 Evaluations and Projections

The Department continues to have a strong base of majors and non-majors taking its courses. The Department faculty continues to be in demand as guest lecturers in the community. Based on student course loads, the Department appears to currently be two members short of needed faculty lines. One of these lines the Department is presently recruiting to fill-- the other line, however, has not been authorized by the Dean. It is expected that, as growth continues in this area, this shortage will increase.

2. Organization

2.1 Duties and Staffing

The Department distributes the necessary committee work, advisory duties, etc., on an "equal load" basis with all faculty sharing in these jobs. There are presently two full-time secretaries along with 2-3 student assistants. The two full-time secretaries are paid under the state career service system. The pay is ridiculously low for the work they produce. Their working conditions and benefits (annual leave, etc.) are also very poor. This has created a well justified morale problem which must be corrected if the Department and University are to be productive.

2.2 Support and Communications

The Political Science Department receives relatively little direct support from the college except for some occasional word processing. Faculty attempts to communicate with students through a bi-yearly newsletter, announcements in class, and the Political Science/Prelaw Union. Communications could be improved if there was a place where students could gather.

2.3 Projections

Planning is done by the Department as a whole. Until there is a prospect of more resources, most energies are spent trying to maintain rather than plan new programs. Department faculty do hope, however, to be active in a Latin American Studies Program and in Canadian Studies.

3. Educational Program

3.1 Correlation of Program and Objectives

The Department program strongly appeals to pre-law students and students wishing to pursue careers in government, journalism, communications, and teaching. Course offerings in the law area, comparative and international politics, environmental politics and public policy are attractive to non-majors in related disciplines

such as history, public service administration, foreign languages, and even engineering. The Department has an active International Studies Program, a Canadian Studies Program and a German Studies Program. The Department participates in the Russian Studies Certificate Program.

3.2 Admissions

The Department accepts all students who meet the admission requirements of the University. As of 1983-84 these included: (1) 12 academic units of high school work as follows: English - 3; Mathematics - 2; Natural Science - 2; Social Science - 2; Elective - 3; (2) Graduation from an accredited high school with a "2.6" average or above and 900 on the SAT or 21 on the ACT; (3) or possession of a High School Equivalency Diploma and a 900 SAT score or 21 on the ACT. The Department does not offer "honors" courses but does encourage outstanding students to take "Independent Research" or "Study" courses from the faculty. Community college transfers go right into course work as a "major" or "minor" if they have completed an American National Government course at the community college level. Department faculty have taught courses at all three resident centers, but in recent years have concentrated efforts at the Brevard Center because of available funding. All resident courses are taught on an overload basis.

3.3 Enrollment

Number of Majors, Minors, and Degrees Awarded

<u>Year</u>	<u>1978-79</u>	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>1981-82</u>	<u>1982-83</u>
No. of Majors	205	221	240	236	232
No. of Minors	---	9	6	8	10
Degrees Awarded	50	63	60	49	57

The departmental course, "American National Government" is required of all UCF graduates, if credit is not taken elsewhere or achieved through CLEP. This course is an important vehicle for the recruitment of majors. As per University policy, CLEP credit is accepted in lieu of the American National Government course, but only on a case-by-case basis of comparable coursework taken elsewhere is course credit given for any other courses.

3.4 Curriculum

There are three major areas of emphasis (concentration) within the department.

Areas of Emphasis:

A. American Politics and Policy

Faculty in Area: R. Handberg, W. Maddox, P. Pollock,
M. Stern, E. Vittes*

*Visiting line

B. International Relations and Comparative Government

Faculty in Area: R. Bledsoe, J. Johnson-Freese,
H. Kennedy, W. Morales

C. Pre-law

Faculty in Area: R. Bledsoe, R. Handberg,
J. Johnson-Freese, P. Pollock

Political Theory

Although political philosophy and theory is not an area of concentration, every student must take one course in this area.

Faculty in Area: S. Lilie, W. Maddox

The American Politics and Policy area needs at least one additional faculty member. Currently there are not enough faculty to offer necessary core courses in this area, e.g., Congress & the Legislative Process, The American Presidency.

The Department philosophy is that all students in this major should have an exposure of at least one course in each specialization area. In addition, all students must take the American National Government course and the "Scope and Methods of Political Science" course. Courses are selected to be added or deleted from the curriculum on the basis of (a) are they necessary for the core of each area, and (b) is there sufficient faculty and student interest to "add" or "delete" the course.

The Department offers the following courses which may be considered to have a strong interdisciplinary content: POS 3235 - Mass Media and Politics; POS 4246 - Political Socialization; PUP 4323 - Women and Politics; POS 4142 - Metropolitan Politics; PUP 4602 - Politics of Health; POS 4265 - Power and Policy in the United States; POS 4206 - Political Psychology; GEO 3470 - World Political Geography; INR 4035 - International Political Economy; and POS 4252 - Politics of the Future.

POS 2041 - American National Government is the only course offered by the Department primarily to satisfy student general education program requirements.

The Department offers an "Internship Program" under a faculty Internship Director. This program is checked by a faculty committee.

The Department only requires POS 2041 - American National Government as a prerequisite to all other courses. In addition, the Department strongly recommends that students take POS 3703 - Scope and Methods of Political Science, early in their sophomore year.

A total of 35 hours in political science is required for a major program in this discipline. Seven (7) hours (20%) must be taken in restrictive work; 3 hours in the American National Government course and 4 hours in the Scope and Methods course.

Course credit is based on one (1) hour of credit for each hour a course meets.

At present the Department is under pressure to provide more course offerings to students in light of student demand. Each of the undergraduate programs appears to be maintaining or increasing the number of student credit hours it offers.

Curriculum History (Number of Courses by Year and Level)

	<u>1980-81</u> (Quarter hours) SCH		<u>1981-82</u> (Semester hours) SCH		<u>1982-83</u> (Semester hours) SCH	
Lower Division	(20)	2837	(18)	4061	(19)	5680
Upper Division	(52)	6361	(34)	4358	(34)	3296
Graduate	(7)	312	(7)	164	(8)	193

3.5 Instruction

All courses in the Department utilize course syllabi for purposes of allowing students to know course objectives, basis of course grading and course outline.

Adjuncts mainly teach the POS 2041 - American National Government. On occasion, a particularly well-qualified adjunct may teach another course of interest to the students.

The Department makes use of the student evaluation forms utilized by the University to assess instructional performance. In addition, the Department has its own program of peer evaluation of classroom instruction. Faculty have regular visitations made to their classrooms, with notice, by two other faculty in the Department. After observing the instructor for thirty-five minutes, the instructor is asked to leave the class. The class is then asked by other faculty to discuss the instructor's overall performance in the classroom. A formal written assessment is made by the two visiting faculty members. This assessment is used for annual evaluations and other evaluation procedures.

Distribution of Grades in Political Science
Courses: Lower Division, Upper Division and Graduate

Fall 1978

	A	B	C	D	F	WP	S	I	(N)
Lower Div.	20.0	36.3	25.7	7.9	5.8	2.7	---	0.7	(292)
Upper Div.	35.6	35.4	15.2	2.0	5.1	4.0	---	2.7	(449)
Graduate	18.9	37.9	10.8	---	5.4	21.6	---	2.7	(37)

Fall 1979

	A	B	C	D	F	WP	S	I	(N)
Lower Div.	12.6	25.1	33.9	12.3	10.8	4.1	---	1.2	(342)
Upper Div.	30.3	32.0	19.1	4.2	4.8	6.8	---	2.8	(456)
Graduate	23.1	42.3	7.7	---	---	11.5	15.4	---	(26)

Fall 1980

	A	B	C	D	F	WP	S	I	(N)
Lower Div.	25.4	34.7	21.9	9.3	4.9	2.9	---	0.9	(343)
Upper Div.	28.4	30.8	21.0	4.3	5.7	8.1	---	1.7	(419)
Graduate	44.0	28.0	---	---	8.0	12.0	4.0	4.0	(25)

Fall 1981

Lower Div.	21.1	26.0	31.8	9.5	6.2	4.6	---	.8	(630)
Upper Div.	23.8	31.6	19.9	5.4	4.0	14.3	---	1.0	(497)
Graduate	42.9	32.1	---	---	---	3.6	14.3	7.1	(28)

Fall 1982

Lower Div.	16.0	29.3	34.4	10.0	4.2	5.7	---	.4	(741)
Upper Div.	30.8	35.2	15.0	4.4	3.9	9.9	---	.8	(386)
Graduate	23.9	37.0	6.5	2.2	6.5	6.5	2.2	15.2	(46)

3.6 Other Activities

The Department sponsors the Political Science/Prelaw Union, the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honorary Society, and the Inter-American Students Association. This year, it is also sponsoring a Model U.S. Senate, a Model OAS in both Washington, DC and Sarasota, and a Model U.N. in Tampa.

The Department faculty have had guest lecture series in Canadian Politics, Latin American Politics and other topics, with outside experts in the field. These lectures have been open to the public.

3.7 Projections (5 years and 10 years)

The Department hopes within five years to add a position in the American Presidency and Congress and to further develop the Canadian Studies Center and, perhaps, the German Studies Center. Within ten years, the Department expects to add a position in the American Comparative area to cover Asia and the Middle East. It is impossible to anticipate enrollment projections because they depend

on where the BOR places enrollment caps. If the overall University enrollment grows, the Department would grow and need additional staffing.

In general, the philosophy of strong teaching and research in proper balance will be retained.

4. Financial Resources

4.1 Outside Funding

The Department has received no grants as a department. However, individual faculty have received grants in a variety of areas including Canadian Studies, S & H Lecture Series, and STAR grants.

4.2 Auxiliary Activities

The Department produces a public affairs program, "Pro and Con," for the local ABC outlet.

4.3 Budgets

Budgets are given to the Department in Expense, OPS, and OCO categories. The Department is given a great deal of autonomy in using these funds. The Chairman makes the specific allocations in consultation with the Department. In recent years, there have been severe shortages in all categories affecting professional travel and professional support in general. The allocation process within the Department is fair, but there is simply not enough.

4.4 Equipment

The Department maintains a mimeograph and a stencil cutter. The photocopying is done on University machines with the outlandish rate of .06/page. Something must be done to reduce copying costs.

The Department needs some word processing equipment, both for faculty to do initial drafts and for secretaries to do repetitive work. This is a top priority need of the Department.

5. Faculty

5.1 Recruitment and Selection

Faculty are recruited by the Department with permission of the Dean. Faculty position descriptions, position definitions and criteria are worked out by the Department. All decisions on recruitment are made by majority vote of the faculty. Faculty recruitment committees do the "detail" work, but report to the Department for departmental decisions on questions of (1) who to bring in to interview; (2) who to hire for the position. Each member of the faculty reviews all files for a position. The University of Central Florida is committed to affirmative action in hiring. No other non-academic criteria are considered in departmental hiring recommendations. Part-time instructors are employed to teach courses when no regular, full-time faculty are available to meet the demand.

Approximately 15% of all courses taught by part-time faculty. This involves two or three part-time faculty per year.

5.2 Organization, Preparation and Growth

Summary of Year Received Degree, Years of Teaching and Professional Activities

<u>Year of Ph.D.</u>	<u>Years of Full-time University Teaching</u>	<u>No. of Published Papers/ Books</u>	<u>No. of Papers at Professional Meetings</u>	<u>No. of Panels Natl. Professional Meetings</u>
1971	17	4 papers	11	8
1983	1	1 edited monograph	3	--
1970	16	12 papers	22	6
1967	17	1 paper	--	--
1970	17	1 monograph	3	5
1979	5	5 papers	--	--
1977	14	11 papers	17	9
1978	7	15 papers/ 1 monograph	25	--
1981	3	1 paper	8	1
1966	13	77 papers	46	19

As can be seen by the above data, the faculty of the department are very active professionals and all have earned the Ph.D. degree.

5.3 Salaries

Comparison of Political Science Salaries with the Oklahoma Salary Study

	1978-79			1979-80			1980-81		
	Mean Salaries			Mean Salaries			Mean Salaries		
	UCF	Ok1.	Study	UCF	Ok1.	Study	UCF	Ok1	Study
Assistant	15,068	16,122		15,608	16,637		16,665	18,228	
Associate	17,997	20,421		19,999	21,657		21,630	23,785	
Full	22,485	28,404		23,409	29,659		28,878	32,932	
	CPI JAN 79	204.7		CPI JAN 80	233.2		CPI JAN 81	260.5	

	1981-82			1982-83		
	Mean Salaries			Mean Salaries		
	UCF	Ok1.	Study	UCF	Ok1.	Study
Assistant	16,293	19,583		17,694	20,951	
Associate	22,724	25,705		24,387	27,452	
Full	30,421	34,716		32,192	38,167	
	CPI JAN 82	282.5		CPI JAN 83	293.1	

5.4 Teaching Loads

Teaching loads are assigned by the Chairman in consultation with faculty members individually and collectively. This system provides adequate scope for individual and departmental goals and ensures fairness. Individuals engaged in verifiable meaningful research receive a small load reduction, usually on a rotating basis.

Loads are not related to class size, type of class or committee work (except that graduate classes are 3 credits instead of 4 for undergraduate).

5.5 Evaluation, Security and Promotion

Promotion and tenure evaluations are conducted in accordance with University policy and contractual agreements. This is a very democratic department and elected committees make recommendations based on departmental policy arrived at in open Department meetings.

5.6 Working Conditions

Classroom space is inadequate. Classes cannot be offered when all students can attend (because of their personal work schedules). There are inadequate facilities for teaching political geography. The Department is constantly given changes of rooms, hence equipment cannot be kept in one location.

Schedules are made in a fair manner by an appointee of the Chairman. Adequate opportunity for personal input is provided. Schedules are efficient, given the space problem.

5.7 Projections

The Department needs (1) permanent classrooms; and (2) three more classrooms (five if enrollments grow in ten years as they are now).

Three additional faculty are needed now just to fill gaps in the program. In addition, the Department is so deeply involved in University and College service (such as Canadian Studies, International Studies, German Studies, Model Senate, etc.) that two

more faculty lines are necessary, making current needs five additional lines.

6. Library

6.1 Collections

The Library is barely adequate for undergraduate work and is inadequate for all political science fields on the graduate level. If no great improvement is made, in ten years it will be inadequate all around.

6.2 Coordination

The Department appoints a Library representative who coordinates with acquisitions, checks new listings and orders books to the limit of the assigned budget.

Individual faculty members seek book donations in their respective fields.

6.3 Services and Facilities

The Library does an excellent job in providing facilities given the constraints of their budget and the inadequacies pointed out in 6.1.

7. Student Development Services

7.1 Student Mix

	<u>White</u>		<u>Black</u>		<u>Hispanic</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>International</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Lower Div.	19	16	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	1
Upper Div.	99	60	2	6	5	5	5	1	6	3
Graduate	7	4	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	0

7.2 Advising

Each faculty member is assigned his/her fair share of advisees, usually about 30. The graduate advisor handles graduate students and two individuals are designated to pre-law students.

The students are not regular users of the system.

7.3 Organization

Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honorary Society: 18 members

Political Science/Prelaw Union: 28 members

Model Organization of American States: 20 members

7.4 Discipline and Records

The individual instructor handles cheating in consultation with the Chairman. The Department is usually kept informed.

Records are kept on file on all majors.

7.5 Financial Aid and Alumni

The Department offers an internship which provides work experience in selected public offices.

There are no formal arrangement for checking on graduates.

8. Physical Facilities

8.1 Facilities

See answers to questions 5.6 and 5.7.

8.2 Provisions

N/A

9. Special Activities

9.1 Type of Special Activities

The Department has created and maintains the International Studies Center and the Canadian Studies Programme. Faculty members are in the process of creating, and assisting in the creation of the Latin American Studies Program and the German Studies Program.

A conference on Acid Rain is being sponsored by the Department under a grant from the Canadian government.

One of the Department members teaches in the Public Service Administration Department's Ocala program.

Workshops are held for Orange and Seminole County public school teachers.

Canadian Studies sponsored an Institute on Canada for the public school teachers in 1983.

Independent study is offered on a voluntary basis by each faculty member. It is carried as unpaid overload.

9.2 Organization and Funding

Funding for the above programs is as follows:

1. International Studies - Released time from College of Arts and Sciences, other funding from Office of Graduate Studies and Research.
2. Canadian Studies (plus the workshops and the Institute) - \$17,000 grants from Canadian sources.
3. The conference - \$10,000 grant
4. The other study programs are as yet unfunded.

The organizational structure is relatively simple. An individual faculty member decides on his own to create a program. He seeks funding and administers said program. Other faculty members may assist on large projects. The Department supplies clerical assistance.

9.3 Academics

Individual members act on their own. There is no schedule, no overload pay; therefore, there are no records. The Ocala participation is scheduled as overload and the instructor is paid. The course had 35 students and produced 140 student credit hours.

10. Graduate Programs

10.1 History and Need

The Department of Political Science began to offer a Master of Arts degree in Political Science in September, 1980. The program is of sufficient flexibility to meet a wide range of student needs, including: (1) preparing students to enter positions in government or the private sector which deal with the presentation of services or problem-solving, positions in which the ability to comprehend, influence, and respond to government policy is critical; (2) providing education for teachers in the community colleges; (3) providing education for secondary school teachers seeking higher degrees; and, (4) providing an M.A. opportunity for students who wish to pursue a doctorate in political science elsewhere. The program is designed to allow a full-time student to complete the degree in approximately one year. Part-time students will be able to complete their studies through courses offered in the evening.

Although the major emphasis of the M.A. is in American politics and institutions, courses also are available in international relations, comparative politics, and political theory. Students also may take special topic seminars (POS 6938) when offered as well as directed independent research (POS 6918). Two core research courses (required of all students) provide training in analytical and

statistical skills necessary to conduct research and solve problems involving political institutions, policy, and behavior. In addition, the program includes various options which allow students to define programs of study which meet their own needs.

10.2 Faculty

All regular political science faculty serve on the graduate faculty. Each faculty member teaches one course at least every year or year and a half. Some faculty may teach up to two courses a year.

10.3 Students

Admission to the political science graduate program is as follows:

1. Submission of three letters of recommendation from individuals capable of assessing the applicant's ability to undertake graduate work successfully.
2. Submission of a quantitative-verbal GRE score of 1000 or higher, or hold a 3.0 average in an undergraduate major in Political Science or related discipline (subject to approval of the Department).
3. Admission to regular graduate status in Political Science must be approved by the Department of Political Science.

Students are not assigned to faculty research unless they are specifically hired as research assistants. The graduate coordinator advises all students and with the student establishes the student's three-person committee. Undergraduates are allowed in graduate courses only by special permission, and this rarely occurs. Graduates may take up to two 4000 level courses outside the Department. Graduate student assistants are used to support research and teaching.

10.4 Instruction

Graduate students are provided experience managing and analyzing large data sets on the computer.

10.4 Library

In the past the Library support has been adequate. However, in recent years, the lack of funds for new books has been a serious problem.

10.6 Financial Resources

Funds for the graduate program come strictly from normal funding. In 1983-84, for the first time, the Department received a Graduate Teaching Assistant to help with our media-based American Government course. To encourage more full-time students, more support is needed in the future. There is a small number of University scholarships available, but none have been granted to Political Science at this time.

11. Research

11.1 Administration

The Department supports research in whatever way possible. Faculty may apply for a courseload reduction for released time for specific research projects. In recent years, the most an active researcher could expect would be one course reduction every other year. Some faculty do not receive any released time. In the past, the Department was able to fund professional travel for faculty who were delivering papers. In the last two years, the Department budget has been so minimal that travel funds have been furnished by a University-wide committee responsible to the Vice President for Research. The Department is as supportive of research as it can be within limited funds. The secretarial support is excellent. Manuscripts are expertly typed and reproduced on relatively short notice. The Department has a computer terminal which may be used from each faculty member's office. In general, service with the Harris was adequate. However, the transition to the IBM has been

difficult in that the special needs of social scientists seem to be ignored.

At present, research is a major factor in annual evaluation and personnel decisions. No one is tenured without some evidence of research efforts. The Chairman is interested and supportive of the research needs of the Department.

11.2 Funding

Research is funded primarily from the general Department budget. However, members of the Department have received several in-house awards for released time and for summer salary. In addition, the Department has received a STAR grant and a NSF service grant. The Department also has applied for external funding to other agencies.

11.3 Space

The Department at present has no space specifically dedicated to research. Research is done in faculty offices, the Library, Computer Center or Computer Lab. This lack of space is particularly a problem for research assistants.

11.4 Future Development

The Department hopes to continue to maintain the present emphasis on research and teaching. However, the heavy teaching load tends to hamper research efforts. When the Department is fully staffed, more released time for research should be provided.

12. Summer terms

12.1 Courses

One graduate course, an upper division course in each area, and several American National Government sections are offered.

12.2 Faculty

At present, each faculty member teaches one course. If additional courses are available, they are rotated among faculty from year to

year. All tenured and tenure-earning faculty have equal rights to summer courses.

12.3 Funding

Summer allocation is determined by the Dean. External funding does not affect a faculty member's eligibility for summer teaching as long as his total commitment is no larger than 1.0 FTE.

12.4 Schedule

Approximately equal numbers of courses in terms A & C, and fewer courses in B are offered each summer.

12.5 Students

The student mix is virtually the same. Every attempt is made to offer a variety of courses; however, the Department desperately needs to offer more courses in the summer.

13. Computers

13.1 Impact and Need

The Department makes extensive use of computers in instruction and research. Computer usage is taught in both our undergraduate and graduate courses. At least six Department members use very large data sets and SPSS. After considerable aggravation, the Harris was used with relatively little hassle. However, faculty have found the disk space charge for the large data sets to be quite expensive. The Department is now in the process of transition to the IBM. So far, there has not been adequate disk space and the SPSS has not had sufficient capacity. These problems should soon be solved.

Future needs include terminals for every faculty office; word processing capability through these terminals; and cheaper disk space for large data sets.

14. The Brevard, Daytona and South Orlando Area Centers

14.1 Courses

A media-based section of POS 2041 is taught at South Orlando Area Campus each term. A few upper division courses have been taught at Daytona, but recently efforts have been concentrated at the Brevard Area Campus. In 1983-84, three (3) courses were taught with decent enrollments at Brevard.

14.2 Faculty

Faculty are selected on a rotational basis.

14.3 Funding

Regular University funding is provided. Meals and mileage are provided.

14.4 Facilities and Library

This is handled entirely by the responsible staffs at each area campus. Texts are ordered through the regular University system.

15. Media

The Department offers a T.V. course in American National Government. It is quite successful and attracts many students. This system will continue.